

Amendments to the Claims:

Please replace the pending claims with the following claims:

1. (currently amended) ~~Use of bacteria of the species *Streptococcus phocae* for the manufacture of a vaccine~~ A method for combating *Streptococcus phocae* infection in fish comprising administering a vaccine to fish, wherein the vaccine comprises bacteria of the species *Streptococcus phocae*.
2. (currently amended) Use The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the fish ~~belong to the~~ are salmonids.
3. (currently amended) Use The method according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the fish are Atlantic salmon.
4. (currently amended) Use The method according to claim 1 ~~claims 1-3,~~ ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the bacteria ~~of the species *Streptococcus phocae*~~ are in an inactivated form.
5. (currently amended) Use The method according to claim 1 ~~claims 1-4,~~ ~~characterized in that for the manufacture of the vaccine an~~ wherein said vaccine further comprises
 - i) additional fish-pathogenic microorganism ~~or virus,~~
 - ii) addition fish-pathogenic virus, or
 - iii) an antigen ~~thereof is used~~ of (i) or (ii).
6. (currently amended) Use The method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that said wherein the~~ additional fish-pathogenic microorganism or virus is selected from the group

consisting of *Vibrio ordalii*, *Vibrio anguillarum* serotype O1, *Vibrio anguillarum* serotype O2, *Aeromonas salmonicida*, *Flavobacterium columnarae*, *Flexibacter maritimum*, *Edwardsiella ictaluri*, *Edwardsiella tarda*, *Photobacterium damsela* subspecies *piscidida*, *Flavobacterium psychrophilum*, *Moritella viscosa*, *Piscirickettsia salmonis*, *Yersinia ruckeri*, *Vibrio salmonicida*, Infectious Pancreatic Necrotic Disease virus, Infectious Salmon Anaemia virus and Salmon Pancreatic Disease virus.

7. (currently amended) Use The method according to claim 1 ~~claims 1-6~~, ~~characterized in that for the manufacture of the vaccine additionally~~ wherein the vaccine further comprises an adjuvant ~~is used~~.

8. (currently amended) Use The method according to claim 1 ~~claims 1-7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said vaccine is in a freeze-dried form.

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ for the production of a vaccine for combating *Streptococcus phocae* infection, said method comprising the mixing of bacteria of the species *Streptococcus phocae* in a live attenuated or inactivated form and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (cancelled)

12. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said bacteria are in a live attenuated or inactivated form, and wherein said vaccine comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (new) A vaccine comprising bacteria of the species *Streptococcus phocae*.

14. (new) The vaccine according to claim 13, wherein the bacteria are in an inactivated form.
15. (new) The vaccine according to claim 13, wherein the bacteria are in a live attenuated form.
16. (new) The vaccine according to claim 13, wherein the vaccine further comprises
 - i) additional fish-pathogenic microorganism,
 - ii) addition fish-pathogenic virus, or
 - iii) an antigen of (i) or (ii).
17. (new) The vaccine according to claim 16, wherein the additional fish-pathogenic microorganism or virus is selected from the group consisting of *Vibrio ordalii*, *Vibrio anguillarum* serotype O1, *Vibrio anguillarum* serotype O2, *Aeromonas salmonicida*, *Flavobacterium columnarae*, *Flexibacter maritimum*, *Edwardsiella ictaluri*, *Edwardsiella tarda*, *Photobacterium damsela* subspecies *piscidida*, *Flavobacterium psychrophilum*, *Moritella viscosa*, *Piscirickettsia salmonis*, *Yersinia ruckeri*, *Vibrio salmonicida*, Infectious Pancreatic Necrotic Disease virus, Infectious Salmon Anaemia virus and Salmon Pancreatic Disease virus.
18. (new) The vaccine according to claim 13, wherein the vaccine further comprises an adjuvant.
19. (new) The vaccine according to claim 13, wherein the vaccine is in a freeze-dried form.
20. (new) The vaccine according to claim 13, wherein the vaccine further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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21. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the bacteria are in a live attenuated form.